



AMENDMENTS

A. IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 8, without prejudice.

Please enter the following rewritten claims:

1. (Four times amended) A method for producing L-aspartic acid comprising:
 - treating an ammonium fumarate solution, which consists essentially of ammonium fumarate and water, with aspartase to generate an ammonium L-aspartate solution;
 - heating said ammonium L-aspartate solution to a temperature within the range of 50 to 130°C;
 - adding fumaric acid in the form of dry crystals, moisture-containing crystals, or an aqueous suspension to said heated ammonium L-aspartate solution in a molar ratio of 0.4 to 0.8 to the total molar amount of ammonium L-aspartate and ammonium fumarate contained in the ammonium L-aspartate solution to form a resultant mixture and applying a shearing force to the resultant mixture, while maintaining the temperature between 50°C and 130°C to obtain a homogenous solution;
 - allowing to stand and/or cooling said homogenous solution to crystallize L-aspartic acid, thereby obtaining a suspension containing L-aspartic acid; and
 - separating L-aspartic acid crystals from said suspension.
4. (Three times amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said shearing force is applied by mixing the resultant mixture continuously.
5. (Four times amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said cooling is performed at a rate of 0.1 to 5°C/min until the temperature of said homogenous solution is brought to between 25 and 100°C.
10. (Four times amended) A method for producing L-aspartic acid comprising:
 - treating an ammonium fumarate solution with aspartase to generate an ammonium L-aspartate solution;

heating said ammonium L-aspartate solution to a temperature within the range of 50 to 130°C;

adding fumaric acid in the form of dry crystals, moisture-containing crystals, or an aqueous suspension to said ammonium L-aspartate solution to form a resultant mixture; and

cooling said resultant mixture at a rate of 0.1 to 5°C/min to between 25 and 100°C, thereby obtaining a suspension containing L-aspartic acid; and

separating L-aspartic acid crystals from said suspension.

11. (Three times amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said resultant mixture before cooling is a homogenous solution.
20. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said allowing to stand and/or cooling is performed by feeding said homogenous solution into a crystallization slurry vessel.